

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of March 25, 2004, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the disclosure is objected to for containing various informalities.

Claims 67 and 69-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the patent to Vandas.

Claims 67-74 and 82-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the JP 61-016817.

Claims 26, 32-45 and 63-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the patent to Johnson in view of Vandas.

Claims 26-31 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Johnson in view of JP 61-016817.

Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Johnson in view of Vandas, and further in view of JP 07-314477.

Claim 50 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Johnson in view of JP 61-016817, and further in view of the patent to Holtzberg.

Claim 86 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vandas in view of JP 07-314477.

Claims 55-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Johnson in view of Vandas, and further in view of the patent to Jones.

Claims 60-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Johnson in view of Vandas, and further in view of Jones and the patent to Daskivich.

In connection with the Restriction Requirement, restriction to the invention of claims 26-86 is confirmed. Claims 87-89 have been canceled.

Relative to the objection to the disclosure, Applicant has corrected the informality pointed out by the Examiner. In view of these changes, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the

disclosure is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, Applicant has amended independent claims 26 and 67. Claim 26 now refers to a process for manufacturing a single part fiber-reinforced component that includes manufacturing a shape-stable supporting core by plastic deformation from one of a shape-stable core mass and a shape-stable preform, and further injecting a fillable plastic matrix into the cavity of the mold using a Resin-Transfer-Molding process. Thus, claim 26 specifically relates to a process that uses lost core technology.

Claim 67 has been amended to limit the process for manufacturing a supporting core for use in manufacturing a fiber-reinforced component in a Resin-Transfer-Molding process. The process includes forming one of a shape-stable core mass and a shape-stable preform.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the processes disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Vandas, it can be seen that this patent discloses a plate warmer. The plate warmer of Vandas uses wax as a heat storing material. It is without doubt that wax has mechanical properties which make it suitable for plastic deformation. The presently claimed invention, however, does not claim a process for deforming a wax core only, but instead a process for producing a fiber-reinforced plastic part utilizing lost core technology. Vandas deals with a completely different technical field and is not at all related to Resin-Transfer-Molding (RTM) technology, as is the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 67 and 69-84 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

JP 61-016817 describes the forming of a paraffin wax body by means of compressing the wax in a mold. This reference does not disclose a process for manufacturing a fiber-reinforced plastic part by means of an RTM processing using a wax core, which is plastically deformed, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 67-74 and 82-85 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Johnson discloses a method of resin transfer molding a composite article. Johnson describes a melt-out core made of wax having communication passages. The Examiner combined this reference with Vandas in determining that claims 26, 32-45 and 63-66 would be unpatentable over such a combination.

Applicant respectfully submits that there is no interrelationship between forming a wax core between two mold members of a plate warmer by means of two mold members of a plate warmer by means of a compression and the production of a lost core having communication passages used in the process for producing fiber-reinforced plastic parts. The combination of references does not teach the invention recited in the claims presently on file.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 26, 32-45 and 63-66 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner then combined Johnson with JP 61-016817 in determining that claims 26-31 and 48 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Both Johnson and the Japanese reference have been discussed previously above. It is respectfully submitted that a combination of these references does not teach a process for manufacturing a fiber-reinforced plastic part which utilizes

an RTM process together with a fillable plastic matrix, as in the presently claimed invention. In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 26-31 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The remaining references which were cited in various combinations with the previously discussed references in objection various of the dependent claims have also been considered. None of these references provide any teaching which suggests modifying the primary references so as to arrive at a process for manufacturing a fiber-reinforced part by means of a resin transfer molding process or a process for manufacturing a melt-out supporting core for use in manufacturing fiber-reinforced components in a resin-transfer molding process, as recited in the independent claims presently on file.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 49, 50, 55-62 and 86 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.


Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

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Klaus P. Stoffel


Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature
June 24, 2004

Date of Signature

KPS:sks

Respectfully submitted,


Klaus P. Stoffel

Registration No.: 31,668

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700